

HARRISBURG FLOODS
(Susquehanna River)

<u>DATE</u>	<u>FEET*</u>
10/05/1786	22.00
03/15/1846	22.00
03/18/1865	24.60
03/19/1868	20.00
01/06/1886	19.00
02/00/1886	20.20**
06/02/1889	26.80
02/19/1891	19.70
05/22/1894	25.70
03/03/1902	22.40**
03/08/1904	20.20**
03/28/1913	19.54
03/30/1914	18.10
03/29/1916	18.80
03/13/1920	20.20
02/13/1925	18.80
03/19/1936	29.32
04/02/1940	19.75
01/01/1943	19.40
05/29/1946	21.80
11/27/1950	19.34
04/02/1960	18.20
02/27/1961	18.48
06/24/1972	32.57
09/27/1975	23.82
01/20/1996	25.08
01/21/1996	24.68
09/20/2004	24.40
04/04/2005	18.80
06/29/2006	19.66

*FLOODING BEGINS ABOVE 17 FEET

**BACKWATER FROM ICE JAM

Approximate drainage area is
24,100 sq. mi.

**IF A FLOOD
OCCURS,
EXPECT
TO BE
FLOODED.**

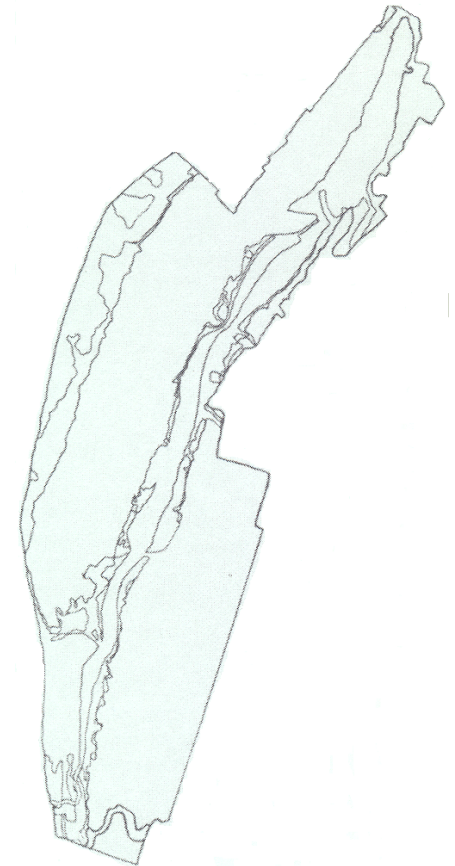
**YOU MUST HAVE
FLOOD
INSURANCE
TO PARTICIPATE
IN FEDERAL
PROGRAMS.**



Published by the
City of Harrisburg
Stephen R. Reed
Mayor

The City of Harrisburg is a participant in the Community Rating System of the National Flood Insurance Program. Due to the City's efforts, property owners/residents in the Special Flood Hazard Area realize a 20% reduction in flood insurance rates. Property owners/residents in other parts of the City realize a 10% reduction.

**YOU
ARE IN THE
FLOODPLAIN:
A Guide**



You are in the floodplain, the area most likely to flood.

Flood Hazards

Flooding within the City can occur along Paxton Creek, the Susquehanna River and in low-lying spots such as subway underpasses. River flooding is usually slower, giving one more time to evacuate. Paxton Creek can rise due to either river level or heavy rains entering the creek. Water in creeks, subway underpasses and other low places may rise quickly. Do not drive into any water whose depth you do not know. If it is necessary to drive through shallow water (3 inches or less), go at a slow, steady speed; avoid creating waves and splashing windshields. As soon as you are out of the water, slowly test your brakes.

Flood Insurance

The City of Harrisburg has adopted regulations allowing property owners or tenants to purchase discounted National Flood Insurance.

This insurance is required for Harrisburg residents who wish to participate in federal programs such as FHA or VA mortgages or CDBG activities when their property is located within the floodplain. For information on flood insurance contact any licensed insurance agent.

Flood Warning

Flood watches and warnings are broadcast on Harrisburg television and radio stations, weather radio and on the internet at www.nws.noaa.gov. Should it be necessary to evacuate an area, police cars with loudspeakers will drive through neighborhoods making announcements. Information will also be given on television and radio. Every household is urged to have a battery-powered radio to receive such information in the event of an electrical failure.

Flood Safety

During the early stages of a flood, evacuation routes are the same as for TMI or other disasters. Directions can be found in the telephone book, in the blue pages. Plan now for a quick evacuation of your home, in case it ever becomes necessary.

Prior to leaving, if possible, turn off gas service at the main meter and electrical service at the main breaker or fuse box. Do NOT enter a FLOODED basement.

Persons who are hard of hearing or who have other disabilities and will need special assistance during an evacuation should be registered with the Bureau of Fire. Registration is available 24 hours a day, by calling 255-3131.

Property Protection

The City of Harrisburg has compiled a Flood Protection Library that explains ways in which you can protect your property. Copies have been presented to each of the three Dauphin County Library System facilities within the City: Downtown, Kline and Madeline Olewine Memorial.

City Building Inspectors can also provide technical assistance on property protection. Inspectors can be contacted by calling 255-6553.

Federal Disaster Relief

If your home is damaged by floodwaters, the type and amount of federal disaster relief assistance available to you is determined by whether or not your community is participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and whether or not you have purchased flood insurance. Securing flood insurance is the responsibility of individual property owners and tenants.

The City of Harrisburg participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which makes benefits available to property owners and tenants within the City. In addition, the City of Harrisburg is participating in the NFIP's Community Rating System, which recognizes local efforts to reduce flood damage and thereby also reduces flood insurance premiums.

Permit Requirements

New construction, additions and repairs of buildings and homes require permits. If the structure is in the floodplain, it may require higher elevation for new construction with major new mechanical systems installed above flood levels. Drawings certified by a licensed professional and a public hearing before the Zoning Hearing Board is likely to secure a permit.

Being in the floodplain, you should apply early for building permits. Be certain of floodplain requirements before expending large amounts of money for designs and plans. Consult with the Codes Bureau by calling 255-6553 or the Planning Bureau at 255-6407.

Draining Maintenance

The City of Harrisburg attempts to keep streams and storm sewers open to reduce the likelihood of flooding. The dumping of debris into waterways such as Paxton and Cameron Creeks and storm inlets is prohibited.

Keep rain gutters, downspouts and piping in good repair. This helps to carry storm water off property. The following practices should be put into use: keep street gutters clear of debris, don't sweep debris into inlets and keep grates of inlets open.

Report blocked or slow draining inlets to the Public Works Department at 236-4802.